

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL SUNDAY BULLETIN: DECEMBER 6, 2015

TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

ST. NICHOLAS BISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA, THE WONDER WORKER

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 13, Verses 17-21: Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 13, ἐδάφ. 17-21: Ἀδελφοί, πείθεσθε τοῖς ἡγουμένοις ὑμῶν, καὶ ὑπέικετε· αὐτοὶ γὰρ ἀγρυπνοῦσιν ὑπὲρ τῶν ψυχῶν ὑμῶν, ὡς λόγον ἀποδώσοντες· ἵνα μετὰ χαρᾶς τοῦτο ποιῶσιν, καὶ μὴ στενάζοντες· ἀλυσιτελὲς γὰρ ὑμῖν τοῦτο. Προσεύχεσθε περὶ ἡμῶν· πεποιθήμεν γὰρ ὅτι καλὴν συνείδησιν ἔχομεν, ἐν πᾶσιν καλῶς θέλοντες ἀναστρέφεσθαι. Περισσότερος δὲ παρακαλῶ τοῦτο ποιῆσαι, ἵνα τάχιον ἀποκατασταθῶ ὑμῖν. Ὁ δὲ θεὸς τῆς εἰρήνης, ὁ ἀναγαγὼν ἐκ νεκρῶν τὸν ποιμένα τῶν προβάτων τὸν μέγαν ἐν αἵματι διαθήκης αἰωνίου, τὸν κύριον ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν, καταρτίσαι ὑμᾶς ἐν παντὶ ἔργῳ ἀγαθῷ εἰς τὸ ποιῆσαι τὸ θέλημα αὐτοῦ, ποιῶν ἐν ὑμῖν τὸ εὐάρεστον ἐνώπιον αὐτοῦ, διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ· ᾧ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰῶνων. Ἀμήν.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 13, verses 10-17. It is found in our books, pages 261-263.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν, κεφ. 13, ἐδάφ. 10-17. Εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μαρ., σελ. 260-262.

Introduction to Orthodoxy (*Sundays, 9.a.m., upstairs*). This class is especially intended for those who are thinking about converting to Orthodoxy and for family members and friends who would like to support them on their journey, but it is also open to people who are already Orthodox and who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith. We explore Christian theology and practice through reading selections of Scripture, the Church Fathers, the lives of the Saints, and other texts representative of the Orthodox worldview. These readings are the starting point for our discussions, which aim at clarifying doctrine and worship and helping us to discover (or rediscover), week after week, why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact **Alexandros Kozák** at orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com.

Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Two:

When You descended to the realm of death, You as life immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant Divinity. And, when You, from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God, we give glory [to You].

Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ ζωὴ ἢ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν Ἄδην ἐνέκρωσας τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς Θεότητος· ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεῶτας ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύαζον· Ζωοδότα, Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, δόξα σοι.

TODAY IS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: Today has been designated "Stewardship Sunday" at the Cathedral. By now, you have all received your 2016 Stewardship Pledge Cards and have given prayerful thought about what you will be contributing in 2016 in support of the Cathedral and its ministries. We have asked you NOT to send in your 2016 Stewardship Pledge Cards. Instead, we have asked you to bring them to church today. Following the *Artoklasia* service, at the conclusion of the Liturgy, we will have an opportunity to publicly declare our support by depositing our stewardship commitments for 2016, in the receptacles provided. This is a symbolic way of saying what more and more of you are saying, that Annunciation is our parish. It means a lot to us. We will do whatever we can to support the Annunciation. A light brunch will take place in our community center, the offering of Adam Bousiakos of X/O Cafe. Thank you, Gus Vouchilas, for organizing today's event. Thank you, Adam, for your generosity.

MEETING OF PARENTS WHO HAVE GOYA-AGE CHILDREN (13 to 18 years of age): We've polled the parents and next **Sunday, December 13** appears to be the best date for the parents to meet to discuss our GOYA program, staffing, and vision. The meeting will take place in the chapel following the Divine Liturgy and should last no more than 45 minutes.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS NEXT SUNDAY: Next Sunday, parishioners in good standing will have the opportunity to elect members to the Parish Council for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2016. This year, there are eight vacancies (8 members of the 15 member Parish Council are elected one year, and 7 the next). Since fewer than eight candidates attended the required seminar on December 2, the names of those who attended will appear on the ballot. Once they take their oath of office and the Parish Council meets on January 3 to elect its officers for 2016, it will also elect the number of members required from among the members in good standing of the Parish to serve on the Parish Council, so that the Parish Council will continue to have 15 lay members, plus the Cathedral Dean. **Phil and Annette Chiappari and Bill Tonas will oversee the elections.**

SOUP KITCHEN, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15: Although the Soup Kitchen is a Parish-wide undertaking, we are grateful to our Young Adults for taking the lead in preparing and serving the food at our Soup Kitchen the third Tuesday of every month. This month, the Soup Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, December 15, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Last month, we had our greatest attendance ever---over 50 guests! For the December Soup Kitchen, members of the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos have expressed an interest in attending and helping out. Thank you, all for, in feeding the hungry, you are feeding Christ Himself.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20: On Sunday, December 20, we will have our Christmas program by our Sunday School children, followed by a luncheon, to be prepared by our Sunday School parents. The Parish Council will also meet, in the second floor conference room.

2015 PHILOPTOCHOS ANGEL TREE PROJECT TO BENEFIT FOSTER CHILDREN:

This Christmas season the Philoptochos is supporting the "Sleep Train Foster Kids" charitable program. This program provides a positive impact on the lives of thousands of foster children by providing them with everyday essential items. We are looking to provide gifts of pajamas and or winter coats to at least 50 foster children between the ages of 5 to 17. These items will be distributed to foster children in the San Francisco and San Mateo areas. The Christmas tree with gift tags have been set up since November 1st. Choose a tag for a specific age and gender. All unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the church by today, December 6th. Thank you for the generosity you have given over the past years. Contact Vivian Curd at 650-873-6055 with any questions.

ALMOST THERE: We are completely done with metal stud framing and exterior Densglass (the yellow panels you see on the outside). Plywood and wood blocking are also nearly complete on all tile roof areas, including the domes. Waterproofing, window installation, lath, and plaster will follow. Then, the exterior of the building will be virtually complete.

Excitement mounts as we watch this magnificent structure evolve, as it represents everything we are and everything we believe as Greek Orthodox Christians. It is also a symbol of the faith that our own generation has cultivated, and what we hope to leave behind, to inspire the generations to come.

We've noted on a number of occasions that we have raised \$6 million towards this project, with another \$4.7 to go. And we have explained how much has been spent and on what. Additionally, we have projected a timetable for completion of the project--summer of 2016; this includes the normal functioning of the garage. At that point, we are planning to hold a **Gala event**, to celebrate a great accomplishment, as we turn to phase two (the completion of the interior). Work on the interior, including appointments and iconography, should take another year or so. Certainly, we hope to be able to plan for its consecration, in 2017, four years before our 100th anniversary. All this, of course, will depend upon your prayers and continued support.

May God bless our undertaking, for God is the one who spoke to Moses, then, and who speaks to us, today, saying: *"Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you."* (Translated from the Septuagint: *Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἁγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*). (Exodus 25:8). May we prove worthy of the trust God has in us to rebuild His Church.



"The Church shall be a home for Orthodox Christians from every ethnic and national background. It shall be a house of prayer for all humankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified."

(Ecumenical Patriarch
Bartholomew, Ground breaking,
November 6, 1997)